AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis in a subject, the method comprising:

a) obtaining one or more biological samples from the subject;

b) determining the level of a plurality of markers in the one or more biological samples, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is a marker ~~of claim 1~~ selected from the group consisting of:

a polypeptide marker identified as Alpha-1-antichymotrypsin precursor (ACT) ;

a polypeptide marker identified as hypothetical protein DKFZp434P1818.1 - human (fragment);

a polypeptide marker identified as similar to KIAA1902 protein [Homo sapiens];

a polypeptide marker identified as leucine-rich alpha-2-glycoprotein [Homo sapiens];

a polypeptide marker identified as gelsolin (amyloidosis, Finnish type) Gelsolin [Homo sapiens]; and

a polypeptide marker identified as lumican [Homo sapiens]; and

c) comparing the level of at least one of the plurality of markers to a reference value.

17. (cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the biological sample is a body fluid.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, synovial fluid, urine, and saliva.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least two of the plurality of markers are a marker ~~of claim 1~~ selected from the group consisting of:

a polypeptide marker identified as Alpha-1-antichymotrypsin precursor (ACT) ;

a polypeptide marker identified as hypothetical protein DKFZp434P1818.1 - human (fragment);

a polypeptide marker identified as similar to KIAA1902 protein [Homo sapiens];

a polypeptide marker identified as leucine-rich alpha-2-glycoprotein [Homo sapiens];

a polypeptide marker identified as gelsolin (amyloidosis, Finnish type) Gelsolin [Homo sapiens]; and

a polypeptide marker identified as lumican [Homo sapiens].

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein at least ~~ten~~ five of the plurality of markers are a marker ~~of claim 1~~ selected from the group consisting of:

a polypeptide marker identified as Alpha-1-antichymotrypsin precursor (ACT) ;

a polypeptide marker identified as hypothetical protein DKFZp434P1818.1 - human (fragment);

a polypeptide marker identified as similar to KIAA1902 protein [Homo sapiens];

a polypeptide marker identified as leucine-rich alpha-2-glycoprotein [Homo sapiens];

a polypeptide marker identified as gelsolin (amyloidosis, Finnish type) Gelsolin [Homo sapiens]; and

a polypeptide marker identified as lumican [Homo sapiens].

23. (cancelled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the standard level or reference range is the level of at least one of the plurality of markers in at least one sample from a non-RA subject, and wherein the level of the at least one of the plurality of markers is increased by at least one fold with respect to the reference value.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the level of the at least one of the plurality of markers is increased by at least two fold with respect to the standard level or reference range.

26-28. (cancelled)

29. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the level of the at least two of the plurality of markers is indicative of differential expression in RA.

30-52. (cancelled)

53. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is Alpha-1-antichymotrypsin precursor (ACT).

54. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is hypothetical protein DKFZp434P1818.1 - human (fragment).

55. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is polypeptide similar to KIAA1902 protein [Homo sapiens].

56. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is leucine-rich alpha-2-glycoprotein [Homo sapiens].

57. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is gelsolin (amyloidosis, Finnish type) Gelsolin [Homo sapiens].

58. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the plurality of markers is lumican [Homo sapiens].